

**FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

July 27, 2021



**City Reminds Residents of Tenant Assistance Ahead of Federal Eviction Moratorium**  
*Rental assistance, legal support available to Marion County residents*

**INDIANAPOLIS**—Ahead of the federal eviction moratorium expected to expire on July 31, the City of Indianapolis reminds residents of resources available to help mitigate the impact on renters.

“Every tenant deserves the right to legal representation,” said Mayor Joe Hogsett. “These programs bridge the gap between tenants and a system that is often seen as intimidating and stressful. While the federal eviction moratorium may be expiring, the effects of the pandemic are unfortunately not going away soon, and these efforts are more critical than ever to reduce strain on both landlords and tenants.”

According to data from [the Eviction Lab](#), new eviction filings remained low during the state eviction moratorium from March 19 to August 14, 2020, but jumped immediately after the state moratorium was lifted. While the expiration of the federal eviction moratorium is expected to result in an increase in eviction filings and hearings after July 31, Indianapolis residents should be aware of financial and legal resources that are available – and which may be especially crucial to the many tenants who have fallen behind on their rent obligation as a result of the pandemic and its economic disruptions.

**Tenant Legal Assistance Project and Eviction Avoidance Project**

In 2020, the City launched the Tenant Legal Assistance Project (TLAP) with Indiana Legal Services. TLAP connects tenants who believe their right to safe, secure, livable rental units have been violated with pro bono legal advice and representation. The City also provides ongoing financial support to Indiana Legal Services’ Eviction Avoidance Project (EAP), which began in 2018 and offers legal representation to tenants who are facing eviction. Any Marion County tenant who believes their legal rights may have been violated or who is facing eviction can access the Tenant Information Hotline at **317-327-2228 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on business days.**

Since commencing in July of 2020, TLAP has served over 333 tenants. The tenant hotline has processed over 1,455 calls since 2020.

**Tenant Advocate Project**

The City is launching a new partnership with Indiana Legal Services (ILS), Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic, and the Indianapolis Legal Aid Society to create the Tenant Advocate Project (TAP). Through TAP, these legal aid organizations will place a tenant advocate in participating Marion County township small claims courts. Tenant advocates, along with



additional staff and volunteers, will consult with tenants who are facing eviction in small claims court and who come to court lacking legal representation. The advocates will ensure that tenants are connected to IndyRent program, provide them with legal advice and/or representation, and offer to negotiate with landlords on the tenants' behalf. While programs such as TLAP and EAP aim to intervene prior to an eviction hearing, the Tenant Advocate Project serves as final, last minute support for those who may not have already taken advantage of City programs.

### **Rental Assistance Program**

Rental assistance made possible via federal relief dollars has also been instrumental in mitigating the impact of the pandemic on renters. Since its launch last year, the Rental Assistance Program has distributed over \$50 million to more than 22,000 Marion County families. Households at or below 80 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) that have experienced a reduction in earned income and are at risk of housing instability are eligible to apply for rental assistance. Applications and additional information are available at [IndyRent.org](http://IndyRent.org).

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### **MEDIA AVAILABILITY:**

WHEN: Thursday, July 27 at 10:00 a.m.

WHERE: Lugar Plaza, 200 E. Washington St.

WHO: Mayor Joe Hogsett, Council President Vop Osili, Judge Kimberly Bacon

WHAT: City leaders will discuss the Tenant Advocate Project.

